

Minutes of the VASP meeting of 8th January 2013

Held at MSDC offices, 1pm to 3pm

Present:

SP	Sue Parker	Mid Suffolk VASP – Chair
SG	Charlotte Green	Suffolk MIND
KJ	Karen Jackson	Suffolk MIND
DE	David Evans	Healthwatch Suffolk
AB	Andy Brobbin	Suffolk Constabulary
KB	Kathleen Ben Rabha	Bury St. Edmunds Diocese
BB	Barbara Bilston	Rural Dean
NM	Nigel Moyes	Healthwatch implementation
SC	Sally Croker	Inspire
LR	Liz Roper	Mid Suffolk Disability Forum and Green Gables
GP	Guenever Pachent	elected governor on NSFT
JS	John Seed	Community Health Manager – MSDC, BDC + Health and Wellbeing Board Secretariat
WS	Wendy Shepherd	SNAP + Advice project
LA	Linda Attwood	Bury PD group and SUF
DR	Daniel Richards	Suffolk Family Carers
SB	Suzanne Britton	MAP/VASP – minutes and Green Gables

Apologies

Julia Carr
Carol Thain
Cad Taylor
Emma Bloom
Christine Cantwell
Kerry Overton

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Charlotte Green from Suffolk MIND on “Peer Support Networks”.
Charlotte explained how a PSN network operates and also how members are trained in the techniques that are used. Together with Karen Jackson, she demonstrated how **not** to and how to “be a listener” during the process. Full information and dates for courses will be mailed out to our members.

3. David Evans of Healthwatch: "An Update" David gave a presentation on the developments for Healthwatch that are taking place prior to the official launch in April.. Full information on this will be sent out in due to course to our members.
4. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising
There were no matters arising
5. CAMHS initiative update; Sudbury and Mid Suffolk events
SP has been negotiating with Anne-Marie Childs and Gareth Moir, (Locality Community Development Officers for South and Mid Suffolk, SCC.), for a single CAMHS gathering/conference instead of two. SP meeting with Anne-Marie on 9/1/2013 to discuss timing, structure, speakers etc for this event.
6. "Mental Health Cop" blog
SP recommended the blog to VASP members as she found the content to be excellent
7. Problems with access to treatment

BB reported on a case which had caused concern: a mother has been unable to get help for her adult son who is suffering from mental ill health. She has been unable to refer him to either her own or her son's GP as they have told her he has to self refer. The son is not in a position to do this so is not accessing help. BB stated that this policy on not being able to refer on behalf of someone else is too rigid.

A discussion took place at the VASP meeting, with suggestion that mother writes a letter to local authority, asks to speak to Link Worker, rings CMHT, rings Customer First to get a POVA (Protection of Vulnerable Adult).

SP stated that there is a general lack of referring from GPs. KB suggested that the issue be taken to Healthwatch or SUF. She said she had had a similar experience to BB's contact.

SP urged members to join Healthwatch.

Action: SP to look at feeding Mid Suffolk VASP concerns to Healthwatch, SUF and Link Workers.

8. Spring ASDA Stowmarket event

SP suggested 18th or 25th April for the event in the Stowmarket ASDA foyer.

9. AOB

Members were reminded of the SUF forum to take place at Red Gables on 11th February.

10. Members discussed setting up a criminal justice system VASP. Kathleen and SP had been on an earlier forum which had been organised by the NHS. NHS had pulled out leave the VASP with no admin support.

KB suggested that the VASP should be set up in partnership with the police, CPs, courts and prisons.

SP and KB to meet with Independent Monitoring Board representative.

Action: SP to arrange meeting.

11. NM.....

**Next meeting: Thursday February 14th,
The Dove Room, MSDC, Needham Market at 1pm**